



Human Trafficking Research Initiative

Request for Expressions of Interest: Full Research Studies

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www.poverty-action.org/human-trafficking-research-initiative



Human Trafficking Research Initiative

- 5-year program (2020-25)
- Funded by the U.S. Department of State's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP), Program to End Modern Slavery (PEMS)
- \$5.6 million total investment
- Produce evidence about what works to counter-trafficking using rigorous research methods (primarily RCTs)
- Develop and share results to improve human trafficking policies and programs



HTRI Competitive Research Fund

Seed funding – 2-3 rounds

- Round 1: completed
- Round 2: expected in/around January 2022
- Round 3: TBD

Full-scale randomized evaluations (partial and full funding) – 2-3 rounds

- **Round 1: applications due Oct. 15, 2021**
- Rounds 2 & 3: TBD



HTRI Competitive Research Fund: RCT Funding Round 1

The Basics

- EOI submissions: use online portal on IPA's website (https://innovationsforpovertyaction.formstack.com/forms/htri_rct_rfp)
- Due date: before midnight EDT October 15, 2021
- Research types that will be considered: full funding for RCTs, partial funding for RCTs, or funding for new arms of existing RCTs
- Applications must be submitted in English



HTRI Competitive Research Fund: RCT Funding Round 1

Eligibility

- Researchers must hold a PhD or be in the process of pursuing a PhD in a relevant social science discipline
- Projects must benefit people and communities in/from lower- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Interventions in high-income countries may be considered, but research projects in LMICs are strongly preferred.
- Projects taking place in countries with current PEMS projects are encouraged (Brazil, Costa Rica, Guinea, India, Kenya, Morocco, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Senegal), but HTRI will consider strong applications from **all** LMICs
- Applicants can request full funding for randomized controlled trials (RCTs), partial funding for RCTs, or funding for new arms of existing RCTs. Only applications that include the use of RCTs or similar rigorous research methods will be considered for funding.



HTRI Competitive Research Fund: RCT Funding Round 1

Learning and Research Agenda

Applicants should read and reference the HTRI Learning and Research Agenda, which identifies learning questions, gaps in human trafficking research, and proposed research areas, organized by the 4 Ps:

- **Prevention:** stopping people from being trafficked (question 1)
- **Protection:** helping those who have been trafficked (question 2)
- **Prosecution:** investigation and penalties for people who profit from trafficking (question 3)
- **Partnership:** working across civil society, academic institutions, government, and private sector organizations to combat trafficking (questions 4 & 5)



HTRI Competitive Research Fund: RCT Funding Round 1

Evaluation Process and Expected Timeline

- HTRI selection committee will convene to assess applications and shortlist the strongest and most relevant research projects (mid to late October)
- Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full RFP to IPA (November/December)
- HTRI selection committee will convene to assess applications and select winning research projects (December/January)
- Review and approval by J/TIP (January)
- Winning applicants notified and sub-agreements signed (January/early February)



HTRI Competitive Research Fund RCT Funding: Round 1

Evaluation Criteria

- The selection committee will consider the following factors in evaluating proposals: relevance to HTRI priorities; project viability; academic contribution; policy relevance; value of research; and relevant experience (see EOI guidelines pages 4-5)
- HTRI funding is limited to research that falls under these definitions:
 - Sex Trafficking – when a trafficker uses force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person to engage in a commercial sex act or when a trafficker causes a child who has not attained 18 years of age to engage in a commercial sex act.
 - Forced Labor – when a trafficker recruits, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains a person for labor or services by using force, fraud, or coercion.



HTRI Competitive Research Fund RCT Funding: Round 1

Resources for Applicants

- [IPA country offices](#) (contacts listed in EOI Guidelines pages 5-6)
- [HTRI Learning and Research Agenda](#)
- [Annual Trafficking in Persons Report](#) (released every June)
- [Global Modern Slavery Directory](#) (list of organizations working on all forms of modern slavery, including human trafficking)
- [Delta 8.7](#) - includes dashboards with info on country-level policies and data on human trafficking and other forms of modern slavery
- [Promising Practices Database](#) – Walk Free (update being released this week)



Thank you



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